

Method and Apparatus for Soft Handoff Communications in a Communication
System Operating According to IS-95B and IS-95C Standards

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method and apparatus provide for soft handoff operation of at least a
first signal transmitted according to a first communication standard (IS-95B)
and a second signal transmitted according to a second communication
standard (IS-95C). A mobile station (104) initially receives the first signal,
detects presence of a pilot signal, measures pilot signal strength, transmits a
10 pilot strength measurement message, fails to receive a handoff direction
message after transmitting the pilot strength measurement message, searches
for detecting presence of a broadcast control channel associated with the type
IS-95C cell sites, measures a carrier to interference ratio of the broadcast
control channel, compares the carrier to interference ratio to a threshold, if
15 the carrier to interference ratio is above the threshold, initiates a second
communication according to IS-95C standard, thus, allowing initiating a soft
handoff operation by allowing the base sites to transmit information according
to the IS-95B and IS-95C standards respectively via the first and second
signals. MS 104 combines the first and second signals to take advantage of
20 the soft hand-off operation.